

Amendment to Final Office Action
U.S.S.N.: 09/928,102
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AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. A method for determining propensity for longevity in a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) amplifying a segment of a DNA from a patient, wherein said segment comprises a region flanked by the genetic markers D4S1564 and D4S1572 on human chromosome 4;
- (b) comparing said segment with DNA corresponding to said segment obtained from an individual who is at least 98 years of age; and
- (c) ~~determining propensity for longevity of said patient based upon an identity between said segment obtained from said patient and said segment obtained from said individual who is at least 98 years of age~~ identifying said patient as having propensity for longevity if said segment from said patient is identical to said segment from said individual who is at least 98 years of age.

REMARKS

Claims 15-22 were pending in the application. Applicants have amended claim 15. Applicants submit that claims 15-22 are in condition for allowance in the present application, and such action is hereby requested. A clean version of claims 15-22 is attached as Exhibit A. A marked-up version of amended claim 15 is attached as Exhibit B.